

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVISORY GROUP

Share your views and opinions to help us design a successful study!

Who are we?

The Adolescent Health Study is a major new research project focused on understanding the development, health and wellbeing of young people.

Supported by £60 million from UK Research and Innovation, the upcoming study aims to recruit 100,000 young people from within the age range 8-18 years and follow them for at least 10 years.



What is the Young People's Advisory Group?

We haven't yet started recruiting young people to take part in the study. This group is for young people who are interested in helping us to make decisions about what the study should look and feel like, so we have the best possible chance of making the study a success.

The Young People's Advisory Group (or YPAG as we sometimes call it) will be a group of up to 12 young people who we will meet with regularly to ask for their views and opinions about different aspects of the study.

We might want to ask what YPAG members think about how young people will sign up for the study, or the best way to share information with young people, or how young people feel about sharing their personal information and data with us.

Because the study is about young people's health, we believe it is important to involve young people in shaping the study. Young people are the experts in their own lives, and you can help us understand what it feels like to be a young person in today's world.

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Who can apply?

We are looking for young people who are **aged 12-17** from across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. You do not need to have any experience of being on an advisory group or board or have any knowledge about research studies or young people's health. All you need is a passion to support the study – you are already an expert in being a young person!

We will give all YPAG members support, information and training so everyone has the confidence to take part and enjoy the experience.

What does it involve?

YPAG members will:

- Attend an online YPAG meeting once a month for 1-2 hours. There may be additional online meetings that you can choose to attend but all members will be expected to join the monthly YPAG meeting.
- Be invited to attend in-person meetings, workshops and events. We expect there to be at least two in-person opportunities each year.
- Work closely with different members of staff at the Adolescent Health Study to shape different parts of the study. We will work with you to find out the areas you're most interested in being involved in.



Will it cost me anything?

No, it will not cost you anything to apply or to be a member of the YPAG. If you become a member of the YPAG, we will cover all travel costs and reasonable expenses if you attend in-person events. We will share more information about this with you if you become a YPAG member.

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What do I need to do as a YPAG member?

You should be:

- **Committed** - Be willing to commit to being a member of the group for a minimum of 12 months and attend monthly sessions online. There may be the option to be a member for longer than 12 months if this is something you are interested in.
- **Able to work with others** - Be happy to share your views, opinions and ideas, and work as part of a team with other young people in the group.
- **Respectful** - Be willing to listen to others and respect that other people may have different views or opinions.
- **Curious** - Be excited about trying new things, meeting new people and learning new skills.
- **Able to get online** - You'll need access to a device and internet connection to join online meetings and complete tasks (such as looking at documents). If this might be difficult for you, please let us know in your application form or send us an email, and we may be able to offer you support.



What's in it for me?

It's important to us that we reward and recognise the time and effort that YPAG members give to the study. If you become a member of the YPAG, you will have the opportunity to **develop new skills, meet new people, and try new things.**

We can provide YPAG members with **references** and records of the skills they develop through involvement with the Adolescent Health Study. These may be useful for showing on your CV and in applications for employment and education.

We will pay all YPAG members for attending meetings, workshops or events either online or in-person. We will share more details about payments with you if you are offered a place to join the YPAG.

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What is the recruitment process?

If you are interested in being a YPAG member, the first step is to complete an application form. You can find a link to the application form on our website **www.adolescenthealthstudy.ac.uk/YPAG** or click on any of the 'Apply Now' buttons in this pack.

The deadline to submit your application is **Sunday 30th August 2026**.

If you are under 16, we need your parent or carer's permission for you to take part in the recruitment process. They must complete a consent form which we will send to them directly once we have received your completed application form.

If your application is successful, we will invite you to a short interview so we can meet you and find out more about why you would like to join the YPAG. If you are invited for an interview, we will send you some information to help you to prepare.



If you're successful at the interview stage, we will let you know via email. We'll also send you further information about joining the YPAG and details about when the first meeting will take place.

You can change your mind at any time during the recruitment process. If you decide you no longer wish to be considered for the Young People's Advisory Group, just send an email to **involve@ahs.ac.uk** and let us know.

What if I'm not successful?

Don't worry! There will be many other ways young people can get involved in the Adolescent Health Study.

On the application form, there's a box you can tick so that we know to contact you about other opportunities in the future.



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Help and support

If you have any questions or need help to complete your application form, please email us:

involve@ahs.ac.uk



Keeping you safe

Your safety is important to us. If you tell us something during the recruitment process that makes us worried about your safety or wellbeing, or someone else's, we may need to share this information with another adult or organisation who can help. We will only do this when needed and will handle your information carefully.

The application form is not checked for emergencies. If you need urgent help, please talk to an adult you trust or contact a support service such as Childline:

Call **0800 1111 for free** or visit their website www.childline.org.uk

Managing your data

You can read about how we look after your personal information in our privacy notice: www.adolescenthealthstudy.ac.uk/privacy-policy

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